



Peter McWalters  
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
Shepard Building  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

October 29, 2004

Dear Superintendent:

The purpose of this correspondence is to request that you provide us with two documents, which are required under Rhode Island General Law. The first document is your **School Emergency Plans**; and the second is your **Policy on Bullying Teasing and Harassment**.

As we informed you in October, 2000, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed legislation requiring the school committee of each city and town and regional school district to appoint school safety teams to develop school safety plans in order to effectively prepare for acts of violence and other emergencies which may potentially arise in school settings. The legislation stipulated that each school committee adopts comprehensive school safety plans regarding crisis interventions, emergency response and management. School safety teams, appointed by the school committee were charged with the development of these plans. The teams were to be comprised of representatives of the school committee, representatives of student teacher and parent organizations, school safety personnel, school administration and members of police, fire and emergency personnel.

In cooperation with General Leonard Centrichio of the Rhode Island National Guard, and in conjunction with Rhode Island Emergency Management, we are requiring you to provide us with your most current Emergency Plans. We want to know what communities have done in this area for two reasons. First in the event of a sudden emergency, supporting state agencies would be able to reference the plans you have so they can prepare to respond with the most appropriate and strategic support. Second, the Departments of Education, Health and Emergency Management, are in the process of developing a Guide for School Emergency Planning, and will be working with communities to assist in the further development of their plans and to assist in training to support the implementation of the plans. This information will be helpful in our planning and efforts to assist communities in Rhode Island.

Also, as you know, the General Assembly also passed legislation requiring school committees to adopt rules and regulations meant to prevent bullying in the public schools under their respective jurisdictions [R.I.G.L. 16-21-26]. These policies were to be drafted and be in effect by September 1, 2004. We sent notification of this requirement, along with Guidance and Model Policy to you in December 2003.

We have attached **two Certification Forms** for you to submit with each of these respective Documents. Please complete the forms and forward them with your **School Emergency Plans** and your **Policy on Bullying Teasing and Harassment** to: George McDonough, Office of School Improvement and Support Services, Rhode Island Department of Education, 255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903. **These documents must be submitted no later than November 15, 2004.**

**Telephone** (401)222-4600   **Fax** (401)222-6178   **TTY** 800-745-5555   **Voice** 800-745-6575

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If you have any questions regarding this submission, you may call George McDonough at 222-4600, ext. 2372,

Sincerely,

Peter McWalters  
Commissioner

